

plant that would ultimately be turned over to the people of Nebraska through a program of buying stock in it. This would provide us with the funds to set it up without raising any additional tax funds. Now very briefly the benefits or reasons for lottery and the arguments against it. The reasons for it, it is the only as far as I am able to determine, in the hundred year history of this state or more, the only system for raising money, tax money, on a completely voluntary basis. In this time when taxes seem to continue to go up, and we seem to have a lot of opposition to them, and I think reasonable opposition. This is one program of raising a significant amount of money, somewhere between five and fifteen million depending upon how successful it would be, which would be completely voluntarily. Not one human being would be forced to buy a lottery ticket and anyone who did buy it would be contributing half the money with his full consent and knowledge and would have the additional benefit of being able, just like a church social where you buy a 25¢ chance on a cake or blanket, would have an opportunity to win something. So the arguments for it that it is allowing people to do something that is already going on all over the state, mostly in the churches. The other argument for it is that it would raise tax money on a voluntary basis. The arguments against it are very simply are that it is by all way of reasoning a form of gambling. Now if you are totally opposed to gambling then I can understand how you would not be able to support this bill. If you believe though that it is reasonable to allow those people who want to invest a 50¢ chance to win something more if you believe that that is reasonable then I can see no opposition to the bill. A couple of the major questions that have always been asked by the seantors of me the last couple of years on this issue, is that doesn't it affect the poor people the worst? Well all of the studies that have been done by Gallup, Roper, and Universities and a...a ...studying the New Jersey and New Hampshire lottery indicate that the people who buy the lottery tickets something like 82% of them are generally in the \$7,500 and above class, so it does not hit the poor people as has been felt, or claimed. I think that this generally covers it. As I say, if anyone had questions on the last three years, I have provided them information. There is a little final information that is being handed out now. I hope that you would support this bill at least on the initial phase to get a test reaction of the people. Now if you feel that you want to go another direction, I do have an amendment which Senator Carpenter provided to me which would set up on the ballot the question as to whether the state should go ahead and set up a state lottery. If we can't get the initial passage, then I would go with that amendment. I would like to get the bill through as is. It is a very simple system. The state would offer or operate a lottery where you could buy, if you so desire a 50¢ ticket. As I say, nobody would be forced to buy one, it is just like the church social where they sell chances on the blanket or whatever, and a drawing once a week would provide prizes to a certain number of winners and about 35-40% of the money would go into state funds for some state purposes. It could be used to reduce property taxes or any other thing that this legislature chose. Another significant misconception of the lottery is that maybe the people don't really want it. Again in almost every study that has been done, and public votes on it in the various states the information you have before you, the polls, the results will range from 62% in favor of it up to about 95%. So it isn't something that is going to bring, like a lot of people here think, a lot of hostile reaction.